

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 IO-13 /078 W
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R 171135Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2288
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0703

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, CZ, FR, SHUM
SUBJECT: FRENCH-CZECHOSLOVAK TALKS

1. ACCORDING TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR,DURING CONSULTATION WITH FRENCH
FOREIGN MINISTRY MARCH 7-8, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SPACIL TALKED
MAINLY WITH POLITICAL DIRECTOR DE LABOULAYE AND ELYSEE ADVISOR
ANDREANI, THOUGH HE ALSO MADE A COURTESY CALL ON STATE SECRETARY
TAITTINGER. DISCUSSIONS COVERED STANDARD EAST-WEST AND BILATERAL
TOPICS AND PRODUCED LITTLE NEW INFORMATION. FOLLOWING, HOWEVER,
MAY BE OF INTEREST.

2. DETENTE: SPACIL TRIED TO DRAW FRENCH INTO CLOSER COOPERATION
WITH THE EAST IN CONTINUING THE CONSTRUCTION OF DETENTE. ON ALL
SIGNIFICANT SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS DISCUSSED, HOWEVER, THE FRENCH
TOOK POSITIONS IN LINE WITH OTHER NATO ALLIES.

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3. CSCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS: IN REVIEW OF CSCE DEVELOPMENTS, FRENCH
EMPHASIZED THAT, WHILE THEY MAY NOT EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS PUBLICLY,
THEY DO NOT DIFFER FROM THEIR ALLIES IN ATTACHING GREAT IMPORTANCE
TO HUMAN RIGHTS. DE LA BOULAYE THOUGHT SOME CSCE PARTICIPANT
STATES WERE PUTTING TOO MUCH STRESS ON NONINTERFERENCE PRINCIPLE
IN THE CSCE FINAL ACT; FRANCE WISHED TO SEE THE ENTIRE FINAL ACT

IMPLEMENTED EVENLY. HE ADDED THAT GOF CONSIDERS IT A VIOLATION OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS FOR THE GOC TO BE PUTTING UNDER DURESS CHARTER 77

ADHERENTS WHO CALL FOR FULFILLMENT OF THE FINAL ACT. SPACIL'S REPLY WAS THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS A BETTER RECORD OF HUMAN RIGHTS THAN MANY OTHER STATES BUT WILL NOT TOLERATE INTERFERENCE.

4. NUCLEAR NON-FIRST USE; WHEN SPACIL BROUGHT THIS UP, SUGGESTING NATO'S REJECTION HAD NOT BEEN TRULY UNANIMOUS, FRENCH SAID ALLIES WERE INDEED UNITED IN REJECTING WP PROPOSAL. EVEN IF PROPOSAL HAD BEEN MADE ON A BILATERAL BASIS, FRANCE, THEY SAID, WOULD HAVE BEEN FIRST COUNTRY TO REJECT IT. GOF FEELS NUCLEAR CAPABILITY IS ESSENTIAL TO ITS NATIONAL SECURITY. THEY WENT ON TO SAY THAT FRANCE ALSO REJECTED THE WP PROPOSAL ON CLOSING WP AND NATO TO FURTHER MEMBERSHIP, SINCE NATO IS AND MUST BE AN OPEN ALLIANCE WITH COUNTRIES FREE BOTH TO ENTER AND TO LEAVE IT.

5. CONSULATES: SPACIL MADE A STRONG PITCH FOR OPENING A CSSR CONSULATE IN MARSEILLES IN RETURN FOR A FRENCH CONSULATE IN BRATISLAVA. FRENCH SHOWED NO INTEREST.

6. ATMOSPHERE: EVIDENTLY DUE TO CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS STRUGGLE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BOTH SIDES WISHED TO KEEP SPACIL'S VISIT LOW-KEY, TREATING IT AS "CONSULTATION OF EXPERTS." FRENCH TOOK OCCASION TO REPEAT TO SPACIL THE PROTEST THAT THEIR EMBASSY DCM HAD MADE HERE ABOUT MALTREATMENT OF AFP CORRESPONDENT PHILIPPE DE BUESSCHERE (PRAGUE 0575). CZECHOSLOVAKS REJECTED BOTH PROTESTS ON GROUNDS THAT AFP MAN WAS "INTERFERING IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS" BY TRYING TO SEE A DISSIDENT LEADER
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(HAJEK).
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